MINUTES

OF THE

MUSKINGUM

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

SCOTT'S CREEK CHURCH,

HOCKING COUNTY, OHIO,

August 24, 25, and 26, 1860.

ZANESVILLE:
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1860.

POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF MINISTERING BRETHREN.

Peter Ogan—Cumberland, Guernsey County. O.
Thomas Harper and Matthew Brown—Lexington, Perry County, O.
Hiram Hendron—Canal Winchester, Franklin county, O.
John Crabtree—Dresden, Muskingum County, O.
Wm. Butler—West Zanesville, O.
Cephas McLelland—Jacksontown, Licking County, O.
Samuel Meredith—Linnville, Licking County, O.
Samuel Moody—Deavertown, Morgan County, O.
Reuben Skinner—Bristol, Perry County, O.
John Parker—Ewing, Hocking County, O.
Abraham Stephens—Zanesville, O.
Samuel Carpenter—Lancaster, O.
Alexander Teel—Cumberland, Guernsey County, O.
James Janeway—McConnellsville, Morgan County, O.
Joseph C. Sidebottom—Pleasant Valley, Morgan County, O.
Jonas McAboy—Amanda, Fairfield County, O.

PREACHING AT THE STAND.

FRIDAY—Bro. Prichard, Math. 1st ch., 21st v.; Bro. Scofield, Col. 1st ch., 13th v.

SATURDAY—Bro. Ellis, Col. 1st ch., 13th v.; Bro. Sidebottom, 1st Pet. 1st ch., 9th v.; Bro. Parker, Eph. 4th ch., 4th and 5th v.; Bro. Ogan, John 12th ch., 46th v.

SUNDAY—Bro. Prichard, Isaiah 35th ch.. 10th v.; Bro. Carpenter, Psalm 8th, 3d, 4th, and 5th v.; Bro. Hendron, 2d Cor. 5th ch., 17th v.; Bro. Crabtree, Job 39th ch., 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th v.

MINUTES

OF THE

Muskingum Baptist Association.

According to appointment last year, the introductory sermon was preached by Bro. Button, from Heb. chap. 9, v. 15.

The letters from the several churches were called for by the former moderator and read.

The messengers names were recorded as follows:

CHURCHES AND MESSENGERS.	MINISTERS and times of HOLDING MEETINGS.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Deceasd.	Total.	Money for Minutes.	Money for Cor. Messenger and Clerk.
FALLS OF LICKING, Muskingum County, Michael Dorsey, John Crabtree, Wm. Butler,	John Crabtree. W. Butter, 2 L. D. J. Crabtree, 4 L. D.		1		2	1	1	60	1,25	3 86
HOPEWELL, Perry County, Absalom Brown, John Forsythe, Aaron Johnson.	John Parker, 1 L. D.	2			2			43	80	4 00
FRIENDSHIP, Licking County, Jeremiah Grove, Cephus McClelland, John Bussey.	Cephas M'Clelland Samuel Meredith, 2 L. D.	11	1				1	58	75	2 00
UNION, Perry County, Aaron Ashbrook, Martin Hite.	Thomas Harper, 4 L. D.	3	1		1		1	22	50	2 00
SALEM, Muskingum County, Jesse Redman, George Meek, George Simpson.	Mathew Brown, 2 L. D.	1						14	25	50
LANCASTER, Fairfield County, Samuel Carpenter, George Ring, James S. McAboy.	Samuel Carpenter, 2 & 4 L. D.	5			2			36	50	2 00
LEXINGTON, Perry Co., Mathew Brown, Thomas Harper, Thomas Strawn.	Mathew Brown 4 L. D.	6	1		1			38	75	1 28
TIMBER RUN, Washington Co., John J. Van Horn, John Burley.	Thomas Harper, 3 L. D.	3					23		50	1 50
BETHEL, Noble County, John Jordan, John Russel, Joseph Downey.	Peter Ogan, 3 L. D. Alexander Teel 1 L. D.				3	1	1	46	60	1 00
BEAULA, Muskingum County, Travis Coby.	John Prichard & Wm. Butter, 1 L. D. alternately.	4			1			31	40	88
UNIONTOWN, Muskingum County, Isaac Olinger.								16	30	80
YORK, Morgan County, John Sowers, Larzelere Burley.	Thomas Harper, 2 L. D.	1						17	25	1 40
MT. OLIVE, Morgan County, Joseph C. Sidebottom, John Shepherd, Colvin Jenkins.	Samuel Moody, 1 L. D.	2	3		1			25	40	1 50

CHURCHES AND MESSENGERS.	MINISTERS and times of HOLDING MEETING.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.	Money for Minutes.	Money for Cor. Messenger and Clerk.
ZOAR, Muskingum County, David Woodruff, Lewis French, Samuel Martin.	Peter Ogan, 1 L. D. Samuel Martin, 3 L. D.			1	1			19	40	1 00
SCOTT'S CREEK, Hocking County, John Parker, John Conway, Isaac Nickson.	John Parker, 2 L D.	4	1	1		1	2	65	75	3 25
GOSHEN, Muskingum County, Thomas Umphrey, Peter Ogan, Alexander Teel.	Peter Ogan, 2 & 4 L. D.							47	60	1 80
HARMONY, Perry County, John Larue.	Thomas Harper, 1 L. D.							13	25	75
EANON, Guernsey County, not heard from.										
PLEASANT HILL, Licking Co., James Holmes, John Holmes		3	1					31	60	1 00
MOUNT HOPE, Morgan County, not heard from.										
MOUNT PLEASANT, Jefferson County, Thomas Robertson.								13	25	26
JONATHAN'S CREEK, Licking County, Ephram Barker, Thomas Yowers.	John Parker and Jesse Stith 4 L.D alternately.							45	25	
EBENEZER, Jackson County, Jesse Mattacks, Alva K Harper.	3 L. D.							11	25	1 00

After calling the Messengers names as enrolled, they proceeded to organize themselves for the present session, by electing brother Samuel Carpenter, Moderator, and Bro. John Burley, Clerk.

1. Correspondence from Sister Associations called for, and presented by their Respective Messengers.

MIAMI—by Joseph Parker, and Minutes.

SCIOTO—by Bro. Hendron. and Minutes.

SANDUSKY—by Bro. Ellis, and Minutes.

LICKING—Bro. Prichard, and Minutes.

WALHONDING—by their Minutes.

2. An invitation was given for Churches desiring to unite with this Association; whereupon, Ebenezer, Jackson Co., Jonathan's Creek, Licking Co., and Mount Pleasant, Jefferson Co., presented their letter, and were received into this Association.

3. The Pocatalico Association presented a letter from their Association, by their Messenger, desiring to open correspondence with this Association—their request was granted.

4. Bro. Harper, Ogan, and Crabtree, with the Moderator and Clerk, were appointed a Committee of arrangement. The Messengers of Scott's Creek Church, were appointed a Committee to arrange the preaching during the Association, and Bro's Johnson, McAboy, and Van Horn, to attend to the contributions.

5. Corresponding Messengers to Sister Associations appointed.

Miami—Bro. Parker. Scioto—Bro. Harper. Licking—Bro. Butler. Sandusky—Bro. Carpenter. Walhonding—Bro. Crabtree. Pocatalico—Brethren Crabtree and Sidebotom.

6. The Circular Letter, written by Bro. Absalom Brown, and the Corresponding Letter, written by Bro. Van Horn, were called for, read and referred to the Committee of Arrangement.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

Prayer by Bro. Sidebottom.

Saturday, 9 o'clock A. M.

The Association convened according to adjournment.

Prayer by Bro. Ogan.

The bill of arrangement by the Committee was read and adopted.

7. The Circular and Corresponding Letters were adopted by the Association.

8. Bro. Parker was appointed to write the Circular, and Bro. Carpenter the Corresponding Letter for next year.

9. Visitation meetings arranged.

Falls of Licking—5th L. D. in September, Brethren Harper and Scofield to attend.

Union—4th L. D. in October, Brethren Butler and Scofield.

Salem—2nd L. D. in November, Bro. Hendron.

Lancaster—2nd L. D. in April, Bro. Parker.

Bethel—5th L. D. in September, Bro. Parker.

Beaula—2nd L. D. in October, Brethren Harper and Brown.

Uniontown—3d L. D. in October, Brethren Brown & Carpenter.

York—On Friday preceeding the 3d L. D. in October, and Tuesday following, Brethren Crabtree and Butler.

Mount Olive—3d L.D. in October, Brethren Crabtree & Butler.

Zoar—4th L. D. in February, Bro. Prichard.

Scott's Creek—2d L. D. in April, Bro. Carpenter.

Goshen—4th L. D. in September, Bro. Parker.

Harmony—3d L. D. in May, Bro. Ogan.

Pleasant Hill—5th L. D. in March, Bro. Parker.

Lexington—3th L. D. in December; Bro. Crabtree.

Ebenezer—3d L. D. in November, Bro. Harper.

Mount Pleasant—2d L. D. in November, Bro. Crabtree and Sidebottom.

All the above meetings to be attended on Saturday preceeding the L. D. mentioned, at 11 o'clock A. M.

10. Voted that the next Association be held with the Hopewell Church, Perry Co., commencing on Friday preceeding the 4th L. D. in August 1861, at 10 o'clock A. M., Bro. Harper to preach the introductory Sermon; in case of failure P. D. Brown.

11. Bro. Butler is continued a Committee on Watts' and Rippons' Hymn Book.

The Committee of publication is discharged from the publication of the history of the Ketocton Association; but if requested to furnish Bro. Clark with such information as he may ask for the history of the Virginia Baptist.

12. In as much as it is known that there has been a departure on the part of some of the Churches East of the Muskingum, and more especially so on the part of the Bethel Church, on the subject of the reception of members baptized by other Denominations, we send Brethren Carpenter, Parker, and Brown, as a Committee to visit the Churches in that region, and to labor with them on the subject of that departure, and to place before them in its true light the action of the Association on that subject. The duties of said committee to commence with the Goshen Church on Monday after the 4th L. D. in Sept. and on Thursday following at the Bethel Church. Adjourned till our next meeting in course.

Prayer by Bro. Harper.

SAMUEL CARPENTER, Moderator.

JOHN BURLEY, Clerk.

THE MUSKINGUM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

TO THE CHURCHES COMPOSING HER BODY.

Dear Brethren in the Lord: According to our rule and former practice, we again address you through the medium of a circular, hoping the Great Head of the church may guide us by his Holy Spirit, that we may speak to you in a way that will be honoring to His name, and edifying to His children; and as the subject of our circular is one that has been often and much talked of, we first of all wish to impress upon your minds the idea that we do not wish to agitate the question, disturb or distress any of the churches, or children of Jesus Christ, but pray the Lord to give us light and lead us into an impartial investigation of the subject, hoping that we may all in a good degree arrive at a oneness upon the same, that we may in deed keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace. The subject referred to is Baptism, upon which there have been many volumes written, (we think both by christian, and anti-christian writers;) whose efforts were to show what it was, who was a proper subject, &c., of which we have but little to say at present, believing those we address to be of one mind on that part of the subject, yet there does appear to be a lack of oneness, (both in opinion and practice) among the churches of our body in regard to receiving subjects into the bosom full fellowship and privilege of the church, who have been previously baptized by one not of our faith. Some appear willing thus to receive, others are unwilling so to do. Now brethren, one or the other of those positions are wrong; if it is right to receive members in this way, it is wrong to oppose those coming in that way. Now let us carefully, and prayerfully examine and see if we cannot arrive at a satisfactory decision of which of those positions is on a solid foundation, and which is upon the sand.

We will first look at the side of the question in favor of receiving members baptized by other denominations, and see where it may lead us, we need not say where it may land us, for the landing or stopping place is hard to define. For if we say as is often said that it is right to receive the New School Baptist, another more in-

fluenced by the Campbellite may say the same of them, another may speak of the Dunkard, another of the Methodist, and so we may go on until we have passed the wildest bewitching Mormon, and yet we are like a ship driven with the wind upon the broad water, without either helm or mariner to guide her to any definite port. Brethren, to say the least of it, is it not like building upon the sand, or taking a leap in the dark.

We will now turn to the other side of the question; and here we think we have a very different foundation, whereon to stand; here we think we see a line drawn, ensampler given, land mark standing, (in the language of Solomon,) a garden enclosed, a spring shut up, a fountain sealed; we see a people not to be recorded among the nations, a separate people; an Israel who dare not mingle with the nations of the earth, in the administration of the ordinances given them by the great God of Israel. We see national Israel (the type and shadow of spiritual Israel,) when any of her children sought to alter, go beyond, or stop short of the duties assigned them, they met a sharp rebuke. Korah, Datham and Abiram, gathered their men and came before Moses and Aaron, saying (in substance, as the world now says, to the church). Your arrangements are too stringent, seeing that the Lord is with us all, we will bear part with you in the administration of those things. Uzzah put his hand to the Ark, but the disapprobation of heaven fell upon them all. Brethren, we are living in a more propitious day, the disapprobation of heaven is not now revealed by fiery flying serpents, sudden death, opening earth or devouring fire.

But the Apostle, in referring to those things, says, they happened unto them for ensamples, and are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

We think these things show us that the arrangement of God with Israel of old, dare not be disregarded, and there was no mingling in the administration of their sacred rights, not even among their own tribes, (not to speak of other nations,) but each had their several duties assigned them. Moses was admonished to make all things according to the pattern shown. The kingdom spoken of by Daniel has been set up; the Lord has established His church, has given her her ordinances and officers according to His own will.

Paul says: Eph. iv; 11, 12, 13, He gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, until we all come in the unity of the faith, &c. Now we do think it evident that all the ordinances belonging to this kingdom or church, must be administered by those of the church, not by those out of the church, the chosen of Jesus Christ, which compose His church are separated from all other people. What think ye that the Great and All-wise God has chosen himself a people, a seed that shall serve Him, set apart, separated, sanctified, and by one offering, forever perfected them that are sanctified; and made them kings and priests unto himself; and yet left part of the administration of the sacred ordinances given them to other people. Brethren, this will not do. Achan coveted and

procured a Babalonish garment, but the Lord suffered him not to wear it in the camp of Israel. Certain vagabond Jews undertook to cast out evil spirits in the name of Jesus whom Paul preached, but they failed and fled from the house naked and wounded.

We are aware the question may arise, what shall we do when there shall come one to us and give us satisfaction that they are born of the Spirit of God, and shall tell us that they have been baptized by some one not of our faith and order, and wish not to be baptized again. Brethren, we know that if there was no answer to give, such cases would be trying upon the hearts of the little ones; for children born of the same spirit love to be together. But let the church both by word and action, say the Lord's portion is his people; the sacred ordinances He has given them cannot be administered by others; then that meek and submissive spirit in the breast of that loved one, would respond in language like this, it is the Lord's prerogative to choose and arrange, it is my privilege to obey as near as I can; the Lord be honored to the water again, baptize my body, open the door, receive me in, hinder me not ye loved of the Lord, for I must go with you. And aside from all those Scriptural instructions and admonitions, there is yet another feature of the subject before us which is this; in the formation of this association, one of the chief objects was to bring about a uniformity of practice among the churches; and according to her constitution, the Association sits as an advisory council; and since her organization, she has been twice appealed to on the subject now before us. Each time she has declared that baptism administered by any out of the church was not valid; but still the practice did not stop. Now to organize, maintain and support an advisory council and yet not heed that council, is rather a weak state of things; but we wish not to weary you with many words, therefore we leave the subject for your meditation; praying the Lord to guide us all both in doctrine and practice, that we may see eye to eye, and walk hand in hand up the holy hill of Zion to the honor and glory of His great name.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Muskingum Regular Baptist Association, to the several Associations with whom she corresponds, sendeth christian salutation.

Very dear brethren in the Lord, it has pleased the Great Head of the church in His infinite mercy and goodness, to permit us to meet in Association to worship Him, the God of our salvation, and hold friendly council and conversation one with another, to tell of his goodness and talk of His love. Then if on earth it is so sweet to enjoy the fellowship of saints, what shall it be to know even as we are known. Our hearts have been made glad by the coming of your messengers in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ, and we solicit a continuance of your correspondence, and may the Lord be with us all and keep us in the narrow way pointed out in his word, is our prayer.

SAMUEL CARPENTER, Moderator,

JOHN BURLEY, Clerk.